

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Oakland, California

Profile of Drug Indicators

July 2002



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Oakland

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Oakland Population: 399,484 (2000 Census)
- Race/Ethnicity: white 30.36%, black 37.53%, American Indian and Alaska Native 0.7%, Asian 16.03%, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander 0.53%, some other race 12.27%, two or more races 5.25%, Hispanic 23.04%.
- The city of Oakland is located in Alameda County.

Politics²

- Mayor: Jerry Brown
- City Manager: Robert C. Bobb
- Police Chief: Richard Word
- City Council (Districts 1-7, respectively): Jane Brunner; Danny Wan; Nancy Nadel; Dick Spees; Ignacio De La Fuente; Moses L. Mayne, Jr.; Larry Reid; Henry Chang (At-Large).

Programs/Initiatives

- Northern California HIDTA³
The Northern California HIDTA, formerly referred to as the San Francisco Bay Area HIDTA, was designated in 1997. The HIDTA includes ten northern California counties that are situated on the San Francisco Bay. The Bay is a central point for the movement of illegal drugs and precursor chemicals for the manufacture of dangerous drugs. This region is both a major production site and a nationwide distribution center. Three international airports, 200 miles of shoreline with numerous boat harbors, three deep water ports, major land transportation services and international trade facilities allow wide access to the area and are exploited by drug organizations operating in Northern California.
- The Alameda County Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) is a joint project of the Sheriff's Office, the community, and the Castro Valley and San Lorenzo Unified School Districts. The program's emphasis is to help students recognize and resist the many subtle pressures that influence them to experiment with alcohol and drugs. The program's strategies also focus on feelings relating to self-esteem, interpersonal and communication skills, decision making and positive alternatives to alcohol and drug abuse behavior and situations.⁴
- The Alameda County Alcohol and Drug Prevention Program is a community-based prevention program using primary prevention strategies to alleviate alcohol and other drug problems. One of the programs' accomplishments is the East Oakland Boxing Association which provides a safe, supportive, caring, alcohol and drug free environment in one of Oakland's highest crime/poverty areas. Hundreds of school children participate monthly in the tutoring program, drama productions, computer training and special events. In the gymnasium, experienced trainers offer young people opportunities for physical as well as character development.⁵

- On July 13, 2002, thousands of people marched through the streets in the largest rally against violence in Oakland since the 1980s. The marchers were demanding an end to the spiraling homicide rate plaguing their neighborhoods, which includes six homicides in one weekend in May (2002).⁶

Funding

- Drug Free Communities Support Program Grantee in Oakland:⁷
 - FY 1999:
 - The Asian Community Mental Health Services -- RACE Project received \$100,000 to promote youth involvement and activism against substance abuse and augment family and community involvement in substance abuse prevention programming.
- SAMHSA Discretionary Funds awarded to Oakland:⁸
 - Center for Substance Abuse Prevention:
 - Grantee: East Bay Perinatal Council
Program: Targeted Substance Abuse-HIV
FY 2001 Spending: \$249,000
Program Period: 9/30/99 – 9/29/2002
 - Grantee: Asian Pacific Psychiatric Services
Program: Community Initiated Intervention
FY 2001 Spending: \$349,926
Program Period: 7/01/2001 – 6/30/2004
 - Grantee: Institute for Black Family Life
Program: Targeted Substance Abuse-HIV
FY 2001 Spending: \$349,549
Program Period: 9/30/99 – 9/29/2002
 - Grantee: Institute for the Advanced Study of Minority HIV Prevention
Program: Minority HIV Prevention
FY 2001 Spending: \$494,043
Program Period: 9/30/2001 – 9/29/2004
 - Grantee: AMASSI, Inc.
Program: Targeted Substance Abuse HIV
FY 2001 Spending: \$417,545
Program Period: 9/30/99 – 9/29/2002
 - Center for Mental Health Services:
 - Grantee: Asian Community Mental Health Services
Program: School Actions Grants
FY 2001 Spending: \$147,544
Program Period: 9/30/2000 – 8/31/2002
 - Grantee: Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organization
Program: SAMHSA Conference Grants
FY 2001 Spending: \$40,000
Program Period: 9/30/2001 – 9/29/2002
 - Grantee: Urban Indian Health Board, Inc.
Program: AIDS TCE – Service Capacity Building in Minority Communities
FY 2001 Spending: \$400,000

- Program Period: 9/30/2001 – 9/29/2006
 - Grantee: Urban Indian Health Board, Inc.
- Program: Action Grant Program Phase II
- FY 2001 Spending: \$150,000
- Program Period: 9/30/2001 – 9/29/2002
 - Grantee: Urban Indian Health Board, Inc.
- Program: School Action Grants
- FY 2001 Spending: \$150,000
- Program Period: 9/30/2001 – 9/29/2003
 - Grantee: Youth Alive
- Program: School Actions Grants
- FY 2001 Spending: \$149,480
- Program Period: 9/30/2000 – 8/31/2002
 - Grantee: Urban Indian Health Board, Inc.
- Program: TCE-Local Service Expansion
- FY 2001 Spending: \$398,778
- Program Period: 9/30/2001 – 9/29/2004
 - Grantee: ARC Association
- Program: School Action Grants
- FY 2001 Spending: \$199,990
- Program Period: 9/30/2001 – 9/29/2003
- Center for Substance Abuse Treatment
 - Grantee: Urban Indian Health Board, Inc.
- Program: Targeted Capacity – HIV/AIDS
- FY 2001 Spending: \$499,500
- Program Period: 9/30/2001 – 9/29/2006
 - Grantee: Alameda County Health Care Services Agency
- Program: Targeted Capacity Expansion
- FY 2001 Spending: \$500,000
- Program Period: 9/30/2001 – 9/29/2004
 - Grantee: East Bay Community Recovery Project
- Program: Targeted Capacity – HIV/AIDS
- FY 2001 Spending: \$544,000
- Program Period: 9/30/1999 – 9/29/2002
 - Grantee: Urban Indian Health Board, Inc.
- Program: Targeted Capacity – HIV/AIDS
- FY 2001 Spending: \$511,486
- Program Period: 9/30/1999 – 9/29/2002
 - Grantee: California Prostitutes Education Project
- Program: Targeted Capacity – HIV/AIDS
- FY 2001 Spending: \$500,000
- Program Period: 9/30/2000 – 9/29/2003
 - California Prostitutes Education Project
- Program: Targeted Capacity – HIV/AIDS
- FY 2001 Spending: 498,325
- Program Period: 9/30/2001 – 9/29/2006

➤ Weed and Seed⁹

The Oakland Weed & Seed Plan (OWSP) maintains a variety of partnerships with the City of Oakland, the Oakland Police Department, the Federal Government, County entities and neighborhood organizations. These organizations have demonstrated their capabilities and committed resources to maintain the communities' recovery process for East Oakland. Notable programs include:

- The Power Hour is an educational enhancement program with three main independent sections: educational enrichment activities help with homework, and tutoring.
- The Safe Haven, which is run by the Boys and Girls Club of Oakland, participates in the SMARTNet project (Science, Math and Real Technology). SMARTNet has aided heavily in promoting science and technical education to urban youth of all cultures.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- According to the Oakland Police Department, there were 6,377 total drug arrests in 2000. Almost half of the arrests were for heroin and cocaine activity (3,261).¹⁰

Drug Arrest Activity, Oakland Police Department, 1999-2000

Drug Arrest Activity	1999	2000
<i>Heroin and Cocaine</i>		
Possession	1,921	1,951
Possession for Sale	783	774
Sale	1,286	536
TOTAL	3,990	3,261
<i>Marijuana</i>		
Possession	365	379
Possession for Sale	468	442
Sale	443	227
Cultivation	11	11
TOTAL	1,287	1,109
<i>Dangerous Drugs</i>		
Possession	91	93
Possession for Sale	61	42
Sale	9	13
TOTAL	161	148
Addicts (Under Influence)	150	718
Miscellaneous Drugs	1,260	1,141
Grand Total	6,848	6,377

- Fifty-five people have been killed in Oakland so far in 2002, compared to the 40 that had been killed in July last year. Police attribute the increase in killings to drug disputes, a tanking economy, and an abundance of guns on the streets.¹¹

- During 1999 in Alameda County, there were 77,260 total reported crimes; 13,444 total adult arrests for drug violations; 6,760 total adult arrests for driving under the influence (DUI); and 8,740 adult arrests for alcohol violations.¹²
- During 2000 in Oakland, there were 80 murder and non-negligent manslaughter offenses known to law enforcement.¹³

Number of Offenses Known to Law Enforcement, Oakland, 2000

Offense	2000
Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	80
Forcible Rape	320
Robbery	1,929
Aggravated Assault	2,709
Burglary	3,506
Larceny-Theft	11,652
Motor Vehicle Theft	4,864
Arson	290
Crime Index Total	25,060

Drugs

- According to the Oakland Police Department, the illegal drug activity in the area surrounding 23rd Avenue, from International Boulevard to E. 27th Street, has been a problem of many years. Members of Community Policing Unit 3, in concert with other City agencies, made a concerted effort to clean up the area. While some illegal activity continues, it is at its lowest level in years. Officers and City staff continue to monitor the area.¹⁴
- Methamphetamine is available in large quantities in the Oakland area and usually sells for \$3,800 a pound with purity levels ranging from 4-5%. Heroin sells for \$500-\$600 per ounce in the Oakland area and ranges from 22-25% in purity. Cocaine prices range from \$15,000-\$18,500 per kilogram and purity ranges from 85-92%.¹⁵

Juveniles

- According to the Oakland Police Department, there were 12,045 total juvenile investigations in 2000, compared to the 9,866 in 1999.¹⁶

Type of Juvenile Investigation, Oakland Police Department, 1999-2000

	1999	2000
Robbery	244	245
Assault	629	587
Burglary	196	184
Larceny	225	186
Auto Theft	230	280
Narcotics	392	470

- In Alameda County during 1999, there were:
 - 26 school dropouts;
 - 1,402 juveniles arrested for alcohol and drug abuse offenses; and
 - 9,337 juveniles involved with criminal justice system.¹⁷
- In Alameda County from 1998 to 1999, there were:
 - 787 school alcohol and drug-related incidents, and
 - 1,614 school violence incidents.¹⁸

Enforcement

- As of October 2000, there were 1,131 law enforcement employees in Oakland, 737 of which were officers.¹⁹
- Oakland Police Department²⁰
 - In 2000, the Area I Crime Reduction Team (CRT) was formed and comprised of a Sergeant and six officers. The CRT Unit focuses on street level narcotics dealing, felony crime trends, and addressing individual criminals that come to the Department's attention. The work of the CRT Unit was, by default, previously done by the Community Policing Officers. The CRT is relieving the Community Policing Officers from a large percentage of these responsibilities, freeing them to spend more time on neighborhood problem solving efforts.
 - The Canine Unit is composed of five patrol dog teams, two narcotics detection dog teams, and one bloodhound team, which is used primarily for missing persons searches. The members of the Canine Unit responded to 410 requests for canine services, deployed dogs 312 times, conducted 219 searches for criminal suspects, 67 narcotic searches, and 26 public relations demonstrations. Canine Unit deployments resulted in 78 criminal suspects arrested, 17 suspects were detained and subsequently released, and three suspects sustained bites.
- Northern California HIDTA: The *Alameda County Violent Crime, Narcotic-Gang Violence Suppression Task Force*, work together to disrupt and dismantle narcotics organizations associated with violent crime and criminal street gangs. The street gangs use intimidation and violence to promote their criminal activities in Oakland and southern Alameda counties.²¹

Trafficking and Seizures²²

- In West Oakland, the Black Guerrilla Family distributes heroin and commits violent crimes such as contracting murders and robberies. The Black Guerrilla Family is a prison-based gang that was involved in the 1970s radical prison movement in California and is considered to be extremely violent.
- From June to July 1999 (a 10 day period), the United States Customs Service seized over 800 pounds of opium at its Oakland mail facility. Most opium was seized from parcels originating in Laos or Thailand and was ultimately destined for Central and Northern California.
- Local gangs control street level distribution of crack in Oakland. The majority of dosage-unit sales of cocaine are in crack form. About 75% of crack is sold on the street and the rest is sold in stash houses and other residences.

- The U.S. Customs Service reported two seizures of MDMA tablets during 2000 at the Oakland mail facility. The shipments were from Germany and consisted of 10,000 and 8,500 tablets. These shipments were ultimately destined for the Central Valley of California.

Courts

- As of January 2002 in Oakland, there were two drug courts that had been operating for over two years.²³ The Dept. 111 adult drug court has been operating since 1991 and currently has over 1,000 participants. To date over 3,000 participants have graduated from this drug court. The Dept. 108 adult drug court has been operating since 1995 and currently has over 3,000 participants. To date, 350 participants have graduated from this drug court.²⁴

Consequences of Use

- In 1999, there were 761 alcohol-involved motor vehicle accidents in Alameda County. During 1998 in Alameda County, there were 2,710 hospital discharges for alcohol and drug disorders and 604 deaths due to alcohol and drug use.²⁵
- A total of 844 AIDS cases associated with injection drug use (IDU) have been reported in Alameda County since the beginning of the epidemic in 1980. The number of annual AIDS cases associated with IDU increased through the 1980s to peak in 1992 with 102 cases. By 2000, the number of new cases reported each year had fallen to 28.²⁶
- Of the 565 male and 279 female AIDS cases that were associated with IDU, over 70% of both sexes were of African American.²⁷

IDU Associated AIDS Cases by Race, Alameda County, 2000

Race	Male	Female
African American	71%	76%
White	20%	17%
Latino	8%	5%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1%	1%
Other	< 1%	1%

Treatment

- In 1999, there were 9,729 adults and 282 adolescents admitted to alcohol and drug treatment in Alameda County.²⁸

Sources

¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>

² City of Oakland Web site: <http://www.oaklandnet.com/>

³ ONDCP Web site, High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, Northern California HIDTA: http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames_northca.html

⁴ Alameda County Sheriff's Office, Crime Prevention Unit: <http://www.co.alameda.ca.us/sheriff/CrimeP.shtml>

⁵ Alameda County Public Health Department, Alcohol and Drug Prevention Program: <http://www.co.alameda.ca.us/publichealth/organization/programs/alcohol.htm>

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- ⁶ San Francisco Chronicle, *Cry for Peace in Oakland Streets: Thousands Demand End to Plague of Killings*, July 14, 2002: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2002/07/14/MN63717.DTL>
- ⁷ ONDCP and Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Drug-Free Communities Support Program, California: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/dfcs/states/ca.html>
- ⁸ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration, Discretionary Funds, California: http://www.samhsa.gov/funding/content/states01/state_files/sheet006.htm
- ⁹ Weed and Seed Program Site, Oakland, California: <http://www.weedseed.org/site.asp>
- ¹⁰ Oakland Police Department, *2000 Annual Report*: <http://www.oaklandpolice.com/geninfo/giassets%20/2000arpt.pdf>
- ¹¹ Ibid.
- ¹² California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, *Community Indicators of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Risk, Alameda County*, July 2001: http://www.adp.cahwnet.gov/pdf/aod_profiles/Alameda.pdf
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- ¹⁵ National Drug Intelligence Center, *California Northern and Eastern Districts Drug Threat Assessment*, January 2001: <http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs/653/653p.pdf>
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- ¹⁷ California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, *Community Indicators of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Risk, Alameda County*, July 2001: http://www.adp.cahwnet.gov/pdf/aod_profiles/Alameda.pdf
- ¹⁸ Ibid.
- ¹⁹ Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reports, *Crime in the United States, 2000*, October 2001: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/00cius.htm>
- ²⁰ Oakland Police Department, *2000 Annual Report*: <http://www.oaklandpolice.com/geninfo/giassets%20/2000arpt.pdf>
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- ²² National Drug Intelligence Center, *California Northern and Eastern Districts Drug Threat Assessment*, January 2001: <http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs/653/653p.pdf>
- ²³ OJP Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project, *Summary of Drug Court Activity by State and County*, January 17, 2002: <http://www.american.edu/academic.depts/spa/justice/publications/drgchart2k.pdf>
- ²⁴ California Courts: The Judicial Branch of California, *California Drug Court Roster*, February 2001: <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/drugcourts/documents/webrost.pdf>
- ²⁵ California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, *Community Indicators of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Risk, Alameda County*, July 2001: http://www.adp.cahwnet.gov/pdf/aod_profiles/Alameda.pdf
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- ²⁸ California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, *Community Indicators of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Risk, Alameda County*, July 2001: http://www.adp.cahwnet.gov/pdf/aod_profiles/Alameda.pdf

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